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Panther Sports News

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May 4, 1982

LS-AS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLESTON, IL--Eastern Illinois University's softball team has received the No. 1 seed for the AIAW II Midwest Regional at Edwardsville this weekend (May 6-8).

The Panthers, 37-4, will meet Wright State, the No. 8 seed, in the first round of double elimination. Others competing in order of seed are Akron, Indiana-Purdue-Indianapolis, SIU-Edwardsville, ISU-Evansville, Davis Elkins (WV) and Quincy.

"We are happy to have received the top seed," said coach Deanna D'Abbraccio. "The team's play this season pleases me very much. We just had a strong defense and (Kathy) Richards did a great job pitching in the state tournament."

Richards (Pittsfield), who has an 18-1 record, has pitched 43 consecutive shutout innings for an 0.41 ERA. She has struck out 71 and walked 31 in 136½ innings leading the Panthers to a state championship with a 2-0 win over SIU-Edwardsville last Saturday.

Mary Tiegs (Lake Bluff-Libertyville) continues to lead in hitting with a .333 average. She also is tops in RBIs with 31 and home runs with six.

Nancy Kassebaum (Belleville-East) became the first woman to earn Most Valuable Player honors in the state's basketball and softball championships. A two-time all-stater, the junior shortstop is second to Tiegs with a .323 average. She hit .455 in the state tournament handling 19 chances without an error to earn the MVP award.

The Panthers finished sixth in last year's regional.